

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect the subject matter of Group II (drawn to an immunogen comprising HIV protein bound to HR-2 peptide). Original claims 16-18 are indicated as constituting Group II. In the restriction requirement of August 5, 2002, in parent Application No. 09/960,717, claims 16-18 were also indicated as constituting Group II. However, in the Office Action dated October 11, 2002, in the parent, it was noted that claim 18 (which did not require the presence of an HR-2 peptide) was initially included in Group II in error. Claim 18 has been amended here to depend from claim 16 (which has been revised to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 14). Claim 18 as amended is thus properly grouped in Group II. Claims 3, 7, and 11-13 have also been amended to depend from claim 16 and thus these claims (as well as claims 8-10 which depend from claim 7) are also within the elected Group.

New dependent claims 28 and 29 have been added and are also within the elected Group as they too are drawn to an immunogen comprising HIV protein bound to an HR-2 peptide. New claim 28 finds support, for example, in claim 2 as originally filed, in the paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27 and in Example 4. New claim 29 finds support, for example, at page 25, lines 21-26, and in Example 4. Claim 4 has been amended to

depend from claim 28 and thus it too is within the elected Group, as are claims 5 and 6 which depend therefrom.

New claim 31 has been added and is also within the elected Group as it too is drawn to an immunogen comprising HIV protein bound to an HR-2 peptide (dependent claims 32-39 are also within the elected Group – support for this claim being found in the claims as originally filed and as noted above). New claim 31 finds support, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27 and in Example 4. Claim 40 has also been added and is drawn to a composition comprising the immunogen of claim 31 and, thus, it is submitted that it too should be considered here.

New claims 30 and 41 are drawn to a method of using the immunogen of claims 16 and 31, respectively. The Examiner is requested to reconsider the requirement for restriction and include these claims in elected Group II or to rejoin these claims once the product claims from which they depend have been found to be allowable.

An early and favorable Action on the merits are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: Mary J. Wilson
Mary J. Wilson
Reg. No. 32,955

MJW:tat
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100